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Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Total 20 pages

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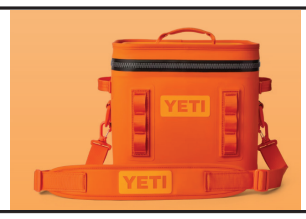

Minden Home hardware building centre

Spidey senses
Laura Hunt dangles in the air during a performance of "Web Weaver" by Whirling Wisdom Art Creations at Frog Hollow Art Creations on Jan. 12 in Tory Hill. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Thinking outside the snow globe for winter tourism

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's no secret that the security of winters is unstable.

Climate change is impacting our snowy certainty with a vengeance, and as a result, many of our local businesses have thrown in the towel over the colder months.

"There's a seasonality to our businesses," said Angelica Ingram, the tourism manager for the County of Haliburton. "Even if it's a good winter, costs are higher, utilities are more expensive. So it becomes a business decision."

"I understand why they're doing it," echoed Scott Ovell, the director of economic development and tourism for the county, "we haven't done a deep dive on it yet, but we know last winter was bad."

Ingram and Ovell intend to roll out a business retention and expansion strategy in the coming year, and instead of working alongside a consultant to crunch the numbers, they intend to get it straight from the source. "We want to talk to businesses and do some one-on-one interviews," said Ovell. "I am curious to hear what we will get from that."

Ovell noted that it wasn't solely the poor winter weather that impacted the business economy last year, rather, it was "a lot of separate factors coming together," one of which was the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic-drive closures.

"We are creating things now that are not weather dependent," said Ingram.

One such thing is the recently announced February Folk Fest, taking place across the county.

The newly cultivated event is "a celebration of live music and community spirit taking place across the Haliburton Highlands this February," according to an email sent out to community tourism stakeholders.

"The genesis of [the festival] was from a conversation we had with council last winter," recalled Ovell. "Council gives us the flexibility to be creative."

While the county holds the reigns for the annual Hike Haliburton Festival - which has both an early fall and a mid-winter edition - Ovell is cognizant of the fact that the festival takes place over a single weekend each time, And again, if the weather is lousy, the entirety of the event is in jeopardy. "I think we can find ways to provide alternative activities," he said. "It is our job to focus on getting as many people here as we can."

Over the years, there have been some misconceptions about community-driven events, with the onus of responsibility being passed between the current tiered political system in place. Hike Haliburton currently stands as the county's only signature event, therefore holding a permanent spot in budget deliberations.

But Ovell shared that there is some wiggle room for new initiatives within the destination marketing plan. Sometimes that may come in the form of financial support, and other times, it could be a formalized partnership put in place. "It is our job to work within the townships, and explore those new kinds of concepts," he noted.

For the upcoming February Folk Fest, the county is offering a small remuneration to kickstart the initiative amongst local venues. "We are all about partnerships," noted Ingram. "We're more than

see COUNTY page 2

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Unpredictable winter weather has resulted in a number of businesses facing the future with uncertainty. That is why county tourism is implementing new initiatives that are not weather-dependent over the winter months. Pictured, a rare day of good trails for snowmobiles in the downtown core of Haliburton. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

County looking to partner for new events

from page 1

a marketing agency. And if we don't have the capacity to support someone, we will probably know someone who can."

Ingram said that she is optimistic about the coming year, with a series of new ideas in the works, and efforts towards ongoing partnerships with organizations like the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Haliburton County Development Corporation. "We're here to support every business in town," she noted, "and if people need help, I always say that you can start with us."

The county is currently seeking venues to host live music for February Folk Fest. For more information on how to get involved, contact ecasper@haliburtoncounty.ca.

Two young snowshoers explore the backwoods of Haliburton after a big snowfall. With minimal snow accumulation over the years, winter sports are at risk for the coming winter seasons. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Dysart residents tax increase reaches 4%

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Dysart is working through the final line items that will be this year's municipal operating and capital spending plan.

Council and staff will continue the budget discussions during a special meeting slated for Feb. 14.

Township council put eyes to the 2025 budget's second draft when it met Jan. 10.

The most recent version of the tally has a four per cent tax levy increase over the 2024 budget.

That means the second draft's impact on the municipal tax levy will be $13.54 for every $100,000 of a property's assessed value.

Commercial properties will be taxed an extra $20.07 over last year's tax bill for every $100,000 of assessed value.

Industrial properties will be taxed an extra $23.26 over the 2024 levy rate.

Barbara Swannell, the township's treasurer, said there was an anticipated surplus to be carried over from last year that could be transferred to underfunded reserves.

One of the biggest increases experienced by municipalities throughout the province was a rise in cost for policing service by the Ontario Provincial Police.

In 2025, the cost of police services will increase by $443,446 or about 21 per cent. That increase is because of the police force's contract for 2023 to 2026. Basically, each of Dysart's 8,334 households will kick in just under $300 each.

Provincial Relief

The province provided a one-time relief against those costs of $365,439.

Regular upgrades and improvements are necessary for the wastewater treatment plant to meet environmental standards and to operate safely and efficiently. The township expects to pay $190,750 during 2025 for capital maintenance work.

The municipality is also planning to expand its wastewater treatment plant. Staff has earmarked $250,000 to cover the project's engineering and design work and $30,000 for a rate study.

Both projects will be funded from the wastewater capital reserve fund.

Transportation, protective services, and environmental services eat up the largest slice of the taxation pie for 77 per cent of levy dollars for 2025.

"We are currently rewriting out asset management plan," Swannell said. "There's going to be some big numbers presented to council in 2025."

Rob Camelon, the public works director, said the budget includes $1,747,780 for capital roads work. Money hasn't been set aside for maintenance to sidewalks and walkways.

"Now would be the time to bring that (sidewalk projects) forward," he said.

And council did.

Swannell eventually had a wish list of about $75,000 for sidewalk work as part of attention to various thoroughfares.

Councillor Pat Casey said a best guess is that sidewalk work this year will cost between $50,000 and $100,000.

"Why don't we say $75,000 then?" he said.

New doctor starts with family Health Team

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's not every day a new doctor comes to town.

Actually, it's fairly rare.

The province-wide doctor shortage is a problem that is not isolated to our neck of the woods. But staff at both the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team as well as the County of Haliburton have been working diligently to attract new physicians to service the ever-growing roster of patients.

"Our group is trying very hard to recruit," shared Kim Robinson, the executive director and office manager for the Haliburton Family Medical Centre. "It made a big difference when the county hired someone to focus specifically on recruiting. That was huge."

But their efforts have been rewarded. Starting March 1, 2025, Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian will be joining the roster of physicians in Haliburton County. Kayoumedjian originally hails from Thornhill, and brings a wealth of knowledge to the table. "She's very focused on clinics and women's health," said Robinson, "she's got some very unique experiences."

Dr. Kayoumedjian will be providing primary care services to the community for the next two years, and will be taking over the population of patients who were once assigned to Dr. Tina Stephenson, who retired just over one year ago.

"We've managed to maintain those patients," said Robinson, "but that's been tricky for us, and very tricky for the patients. They've had a healthcare team instead of just one doctor."

Stephenson's patient population was just above 1100, and Robinson noted that's pretty standard with roster numbers up here. "Our maximum roster is 1300, with just under 10,000 patients in total with the clinic," she shared.

There is a catchment area for patients who qualify for the services provided by the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, but as a rural area, those boundaries are quite large.

The patients are equally dispersed amongst eight full-time physicians, with Dr. Kayoumedjian now stepping into the ninth spot.

While this is one step forward for local medical care, Robinson noted that she and her colleagues are still actively working alongside the county physician recruiter, Wendy Welch, to continue to build their team.

"We are currently taking names off the waitlist from 2017," she said. "Sometimes we recruit a new physician, just in time for another one to retire."

But Robinson is optimistic about Dr. Kayoumedjian, and her role in the community. "We're very excited," she said. "Everyone who met her just loved her, and she will be such a great fit for our team."

Highlands East driver arrested after failing to stop for police

The Haliburton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver for numerous driving related charges and criminal offences in the Township of Highlands East.

On Jan. 3, shortly after 4 p.m., Haliburton OPP attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a pickup truck that was travelling on County Road 503. The driver fled from police at a high rate of speed and in a dangerous manner. Due to risk of safety to the public, the officer did not continue the pursuit.

Police continued to search for the vehicle and driver. Officers located the vehicle that was had been involved in a motor vehicle collision, but the driver had left the scene and fled on foot. Officers continued to search the area and located the driver of the motor vehicle who was arrested by officers.

As a result of this investigation, a 41-year-old from Highlands East Township has been charged with:

- Flight from Peace Officer
- Resist Peace Officer
- Dangerous Operation
- Fail to Stop for Police
- Operation While Prohibited
- Fail to Comply with Prohibition Order
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order
- Fail to Report Accident
- Driving While Under Suspension - five counts

The accused was held for a bail hearing to appear on video before the Ontario Court of Justice.

If you have any information regarding a criminal offence, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or you submit your information online at www.khcrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court.

Submitted

A kaleidoscope of colour

Whirling Wisdom Art Creations in Tory Hill presented "Web Weaver" on Jan. 12. The aerial silks performance was followed by an open studio and demonstrations afterwards. Below, Biljana Webb cascades a colouful scarf down the stairs. Right, aerial student Shashwananeka Lili Banchotova balances in hanging silks. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Haliburton High School sports

Boys basketball

It's been a busy week for high school sports at Hal High, with both junior and senior basketball teams facing off against visiting teams. The juniors Red Hawks won against Fenelon Falls 54-33 on their home court last week, with the seniors following suit against the senior Fenelon Falls team, toppling them 52-37. The juniors are pictured on the top half of the page, with the seniors down below. /TIM YANO staff photographer.

Girls volleyball

The girls junior Red Hawks volleyball team faced off against the Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons, defeating them 2-0, before going on to face the Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute Spartans, and pulling off another 2-0 win. /TIM YANO staff photographer

County council talks dirt

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

The start of the new year also marked the start of a new industrial property class in Haliburton County.

Andrea Robinson said during county council's Jan. 8 meeting that the property class is comprised of the industrial portion of properties used for aggregate extraction.

Due to the county's provided 2025 transition ratio being higher than the allowable tax ratio range set by the Ministry of Finance and to keep consistent with the county's current practices, staff recommended a 30 per cent tax reduction be applied to this property class. That's similar to current Industrial classes, which include vacant units, excess land, and vacant land.

Providing a 30 per cent reduction would create an allowable tax ratio of 0.978620, Robinson said. The Ministry of Finance set the allowable tax ratio ranges for the new subclass at 0.6 to 1.1.

Of the county's total $9.63 billion in assessment, only $961,900 falls within the new property class and is responsible for about $2,500 of the $25 million tax levy.

Robinson said the new tax subclass and recommended tax ratio has a 0.01 per cent effect on the residential tax rate, making the 2025 total residential tax rate increase 4.83 per cent instead of the 4.82 per cent presented in this year's capital and operating budget.

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said he understands the provincial government is willing to spend county money and education money from taxes, but he wonders why the aggregate industry should have a tax break at all.

"I didn't know the aggregate industry was in so much trouble," he said.

He wondered why a 30 per cent reduction is allowed when 21 per cent reduction would bring the ratio to 1.1 tax ratio.

"It's a small amount of money, but it's a matter of principle," Carter said.

In effect, industry operators who are making money off aggregate will get a tax break and residential taxpayers will not get such a benefit.

Robinson said it is up to council to set the ratio at 1.1, which would be about a 22 per cent tax reduction.

"I just don't think that somebody who has got an industry that's a profit-making industry should be paying less tax than residential taxes," Carter said. "I don't know why we would give a tax break greater than we have to, particularly in light of our finances and our situation with infrastructure."

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she doesn't disagree with Carter's point.

"I'm wondering whether, in a way, because the cost of road construction that we have right now is so high, if this could have a little bit of a positive impact on the cost of road construction," she said.

"What the ministry is intending to do with those savings, I'm not sure," Robinson said.

"I know that the ministry has consciously over a number of year done things to protect sources of granular material," Danielsen said.

Council agreed to set the 2025 tax rate ratio at 1.1.

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in Dysart et al
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Try some of the activities listed and enter for your chance to win one of five prizes.
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points of view

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146 Highland Street, P.O. Box 360,
Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0
• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275
Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2018

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And now what?

emily stonehouse

Editorial

WITH THE freshness of the new year in the not-so-distant rear view mirror, there are many a mantra circulating social media. Targeted ads encouraging us to live laugh love into the present.

As a new parent to a fairly fresh baby, I am regularly told not to blink, or I'll miss it. The present becoming the past in a mere flicker of time.

We're nestled in between the good old days and the promise of tomorrow in a sliver of relative peace.

And of course, the guarantee of a new day is never promised. It's only available based on the luck of the draw.

And while we wade the waters of today, the murky future seems distant. A carrot dangled in front of the nose, a race that's never won.

Which is why I can assume that the actions of today are not always considered towards the implications of tomorrow.

But nearly every single thing that will happen tomorrow will be the result of today.

And how fast our present becomes our past.

Last year, we had an abnormally warm winter; with snow levels never quite accumulating and still waters never quite freezing.

And while it was a great conversation starter for locals in line at the grocery store last year, this year, it's a real problem. Businesses just can't bounce back from the hit. Some never will.

And so, we look back. We see the problem.

And now what?

In 2022 we had an election in Haliburton. And while there wasn't a wide variety of options for who would be representing us, we had a chance to vote. Some exercised that right, many did not.

At the time, we didn't think about how this lack of diversity amongst representatives may impact our voices, our needs, our environment, our community as a whole.

And so, we look back. We see the problem.

And now what?

We are currently watching Los Angeles burn; wildfires swallowing homes and cities with a voracious appetite that cannot be quelled.

Years ago, we were told that there would be dangers if we stayed on the trajectory of ambivalence towards our natural world. That real choices needed to be made at every single level of personal and governmental interchange until corporations were held accountable for what could happen in the future. We were warned.

And so, we look back. We see the problem.

And now what?

While we wade through our day-to-day, our every action has the power to impact the shape of our future. We sit at a carving table, whittling away at a final project. The piece we can hold in our hands with pride, that we can share with our grandchildren. The piece that feels smooth and clean, but never done. Forever a work in progress. The future easing into the present before oh so quickly dissolving into the past.

Because as we watch our world burn around us in more ways than one; our decisions and actions and ambivalence of today leading us to a point of no return tomorrow, we all have to wonder: and now what?

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Print Subscriptions 1 yr/ $51 (taxes included). Published each Tuesday by White Pine Media

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The fresh dusting of snow presented an opportunity to observe a variety of animal tracks through many trails in Haliburton. Do you know who left these prints in the snow? /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Joy

lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

Tales from the great

"JOY DOES not arrive with a fanfare, on a red carpet with the flowers of a perfect life. Joy sneaks in as you pour yourself a cup of coffee, watching the sunset..." These lines are from a poem by Donna Ashworth from her book *Wild Hope*. I've been contemplating the poem recently. The idea that joy comes into our lives in the smallest of ways. And our job is to be ready, to be open and available to experience and feel it. We let the joy in and we savour it. We absorb it.

It comes from awareness. Kind awareness of the present moment.

I think this is especially important when we are struggling. Whether we are sick ourselves, or perhaps we are a caregiver who is tired and doesn't get a break. Maybe we are anxious or depressed, lonely or disconnected from our friends and family. There are many hard issues in the world right now. It can feel heavy and overwhelming. Over the years I learned that my heart can hold a lot of grief, or sadness or anger or disappointment and at the same time it can hold joy and love and wonder. There is space for all of it. It's all in how I pay attention.

I can choose to start my day with a quiet cup of coffee or tea and an inspirational reading. I can choose to look out the window and sit with the beauty that is there. I can choose to snuggle with my furry family members. In the practice of meditation they call it gladdening the mind. We intentionally find something that we are grateful for, that brings us joy and we stay focused on it for at least 30 seconds. We give our brain and our heart and our whole body time to absorb the joy and the longer we do this practice the easier it becomes for our brain to recognize it, accept it, and remember it. What we think about regularly is what becomes natural for us.

The more we focus on gratitude and joy, it becomes a habit. It gets easier for the mind to go there. I know the thoughts in my head can be relentless. They go and go and go and often are fear based. And when that happens, I shrink and become smaller and contracted and separated from the things I love or the people I love.

I have been observing this in myself for years. And so now when I notice my mind is churning, I pause and find something small to focus on that brings me joy. And it is amazing how many times a day I am in joy or wonder. "Joy is supposed to slither through the cracks of your imperfect life, that's how joy works." We all have imperfect lives at times. It is part of the human experience. And we all have moments of joy, of wonder, of delight. Our hearts are strong and can hold it all. I wish for a 2025 where joy chooses you in small ways!

points of view

Simpler times

steve galea

Loon Tales

THE OTHER day I woke up in the middle of the night and wondered what time it was. So, as I've done for the last decade, I looked beyond Jenn's slumbering form and visually scanned her night table for the information on her LED alarm clock. And then, I remembered she got rid of that two years ago.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that I was in a room that contained two cellphones, two iPads, a laptop computer, and an Apple watch, so all I had to do was consult any of those – if I could just find one in the dark.

The ensuing search, which ended shortly after daybreak, got me thinking about the ways we humans have literally viewed time throughout the ages.

Oh sure, these days, you can view the time on all of those things I listed, as well as your oven, TV, coffeemaker, microwave, GPS, fish finder, bread maker, car's dashboard, exercise machines, and wall clocks. This is great but, with so many options, younger generations have been deprived of the great joy of not knowing what time it actually is.

When I was a kid, one of the best hobbies a person could have was asking what time it was. (Hobbies were in their infancy.) You might not think this would be exciting, but I remember a time in my bachelor days when you could approach a woman and ask, "Excuse me, do you have the time?" and there would be a slim chance that she would look at you with a mischievous smile and reply, "Not right now, but here's my phone number."

And then, you would phone her later and ask for the time.

This is not to say that we were without means of finding the time. There were clocks on just about every wall and almost everyone wore a wristwatch too. The problem was no two timepieces agreed on what time it actually was.

This was the best thing ever.

You see, in those rough and tumble days no boss or teacher would dare look at you sternly and say, "You're late! You were supposed to be here at nine."

For the minute they did, you would show them your watch, and there, for all to see, Mickey's hands would be suggesting that the time was 8:32, as they had for the last hour and a half.

The thing I miss most about the days when we weren't so tuned into the time is that now we do not look at the natural world as much.

When I was a kid, if your watch stopped or if no one in the group had a functioning one, you would just estimate the time from the location of the sun. These predictions were surprisingly accurate too, give or take six hours.

On occasion, they would lead your friend to say something like, "I think we better go now. Your mom wanted you home for lunch."

Then you'd look at the sky and reply, "Relax, look at the sun. It's still approaching its high point in the sky …"

"That's the moon," he'd respond. And later, as you ate a cold lunch, you'd laugh.

Clearly, this wouldn't work in our hyper-busy, time-obsessed modern world.

Even so, I miss the old times.

pic *of the* past

This week's Pic of the Past is from the *Echo* archives. The original caption reads: "This week's photo shows the Tomkin, Dupont Graphite Company mill at Wilberforce in the early 1900s. This mining company was owned by the Diamond Graphite company who operated the mill right up until the First World War started in 1914, shipping graphite to Germany. Following the war, the company moved to the United States. The mill was located where the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company eventually located (which has also ceased operation)." Photo courtesy of Ruth McGill, Port Perry, Ont. Information provided by Mary Clark of Norland.

letters to the editor

An ask from farmers

To the Editor,

As we begin a new year, the farmers of this county need your support and action.

As some may remember we lost our large animal veterinarian five years ago 2020. Up until then we had a membership of close to one hundred members that had need and paid a membership to the Vet Service Committee and the Haliburton County Farmers Association. The group was able to pay the $1000 annual membership to Northern Producers Animal Health Network NPAHN. Then COVID hit, so not having a cost benefit of being a member we have now lost majority of our membership over the proceeding years. Last year in an attempt to gather the people back for an AGM in January, phone calls were made to the original list of participants. The stories that were shared were humbling. Several people with animals had to sell, others with their animals moved to other communities that had a large animal vet, still others have lost hope in any action.

The remaining HCFA members are still hope filled and working to bring education, resources and replacing our large animal vet for the county. Other Vet Service Committees across the Northern Producers Animal Health Network (NPAHN) have the support of local municipalities to pay the $1000 for membership to NPAHN that could return up to $40,000 back each year to the community in services for a large animal vet. This helped pay for the travel and maintain a large mobile unit for a vet to attend large animals. We have as a HCFA and HVSC have been the source for this payment for our county.

The community needs your support and action to preserve our food security in a time when other levels of government are failing us. The Ministry of Ag and the Ministry of Northern Development have both dropped their support of local farming. We have fallen through the cracks and into the river with out a paddle. The natural resource sector is the back drop for the tourism elements of this county having beautiful land to enjoy. We have the capacity to produce food for families in a time of insecure food resources. Even though some public representatives don't believe farmers make a difference in this county, we believe other wise and are continuing to work for the public food security and care of the land.

Volunteer burnout is a very real issue of most community organizations. The small voice of agriculture, which feeds you, is not being responded to by those who govern. What we need is your voice to communicate with local, provincial and federal levels of governance to sit and listen to the real concerns of those that are growing food.

Specifically what we need is for you to communicate with the Min of Ag and Min of Northern Development, We need a people to call the University of Guelph to shift their training program to increase large animal vets. We need some one to help reach out to the community with this story of agriculture and the importance of supporting our farmers, their markets, and the resources we still have available. We need to attract more into being a society that can give us healthy land, food and people.

The AGM for the HCFA is Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Castle Antique in Haliburton. Please join this event to share what the county is able and willing to do to save our food security and landscape.

Thank you for your support and actions.

Jean and Godfrey Tyler,
Members of HCFA
705-457-2214

April 2024 Year in Review

FoRT seeks Dysart support for bike hub grant application

The Friends of the Rail Trail group has an innovative idea for the repurposing of an underutilizing community asset. Pamela Marsales, chairperson of Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT), pitched the idea to Dysart council for a community bike hub at the municipally-owned caboose. She said the proposed Caboose Community Bike Hub would bring an aspect of the region's heritage to life and encourage more people in Dysart and Haliburton Village to consider cycling.

Eclipse lands in early April

A near total eclipse shadowed the world on April 8. "The biggest hype is that we are going to have totality, really close," says Brian Mould, local astronomy expert. "Most of the time it is in the ocean. To have one so close is really cool." Totality occurs when the moon completely blocks direct light from the sun. This area covered by totality was around 185 kilometres wide and is shooting past us at over 3600 kilometres per hour. Locals looked to the skies for the phenomenon.

Abbey Retreat Centre changes name

After four months of listening, creativity, engaging discussions and discernment and community support, the decision has been made, and the well-known Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) will officially change their name to Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

Parents angered over bussing changes

Recently, there have been concerns regarding the TLDB's policy changes to bussing students in Haliburton County. Elementary students as young as the age of four years old will be required to walk if they live within 1.6 kilometres from their school. "All reviews have identified suitable conditions for students to walk to school with normal conditions such as crossing the street," said Carolynne Bull, manager of communications for TLDSB.

Beaver dam washes out Dysart roads

Dysart's Public Works Department received reports of a beaver dam break on Boughner Road on April 12 at 3 p.m. Staff visited the site, confirmed the incident, and witnessed water over-topping the road. The water washed the culvert downstream and took out as much as 15 meters of road. The water impacted two other roads downstream: Harburn Road and Harmony Road in Haliburton.

Above, Zebedee, Ethan, and Alexis wait for the eclipse at the Head Lake Park playground in Haliburton. /FILE

An eclipse was seen around the world on April 8, 2024, and had people of all ages eager to watch the unique solar phenomenon. Left, the near-total eclipse observed from Head Lake Park. /FILE

Fleming College Haliburton School of Art + Design student Logan Patrick McAdams's display was a burst of colour during the school's We Made It! Student Exhibition in the Great Hall on Saturday, April 20. Students from the past spring semester had the chance to show off their work to the community. /FILE

A young boy dons gear during an open house at the Dysart Fire Department in April, 2024. /FILE

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May 2024 Year in Review

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School wrapped up their vibrant drama season at the end of May. /FILE

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame inducted a number of new athletes, coaches, and teams in May, 2024. /FILE

Second group of inductees to be recognized this month

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame celebrated its second group of inductees on Saturday, May 25. at the AJ LaRue Arena in Haliburton. In total, six athletes, four builders, and two teams were recognized for their outstanding achievements as athletes and coaches, including The Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics Ontario team, the HHSS 1974 Redmen football team, Kate Campbell, Scott LaRue, Colin Newell, Greg Newell, Mark Robinson, Gary Vasey, Gary Brohman, Jane Heyes, Ken Rosenberg, and Mark Schell Sr.

Haliburton Hospital removes agency nurses, causes concern

As of May 1, Haliburton Hospital removed all agency nurse staff.

"HHHS committed to no longer depending on agency staff. Not only does this decision align with Ontario Health East and the commitment to eliminate agency support as of May 1, but it also highlights our ongoing commitment and care for employing our own nurses, personal support workers, allied health professionals and other providers," said Veronica Nelson, CEO of HHSS.

The Haliburton Sculpture Forest presented a number of sculptures dabbled throughout the downtown core of Haliburton. /FILE

The Haliburton Farmers' Market kicked off their year again in Head Lake Park. /FILE

Francis Thomas Contracting celebrates 90th anniversary

Francis Thomas Contracting celebrated their 90th anniversary this year. Keith Thomas, the current owner, became in charge after the business was succeeded by his grandfather, Francis Thomas. "My grandfather Francis started the company back in 1934 out of necessity. He and another local guy worked for another contractor for the season and didn't get paid. Out of necessity, he started to do his own thing and therefore he was responsible for himself. Course back then, whatever made you money, made you money, so he did a lot of horse work and building and such," said Keith.

Haliburton Legion's tank off for restoration

Haliburton, the M4-A2 tank that sits in front of the Haliburton Legion was taken to Haliburton Crane and Cawker's Crane Rental on Gelert Road. The tank was sandblasted, primed, repainted, and completely restored. The tank was last refurbished in 2002. Total Site Services is also assisting with the refurbishing of the tank.

"We are big supporters of the Legion and what it represents. Both of my grandparents were in the Second World War," said Pat Casey, president of Total Site Services. "To let it rot away is bothersome to us."

The tank that sits to the left of Branch 129 Haliburton Legion was removed at the end of May to undergo major restorations. /FILE

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June 2024 Year in Review

Minden Pride partnered with Haliburton Highlands Secondary School to offer the Colour Run to celebrate Pride Month in Canada. /FILE

Skyline Dance Studio offered their year-end performance at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. /FILE

Teeny Tiny Summit to focus on small community development

Rural communities thrive when each sector collaborates and comes together to find solutions.

That's what the Teeny Tiny Summit is celebrating in June.

"I think it's going to be a really great day to showcase the county, and some of the great things that are happening," said Angelica Ingram, tourism manager for the County of Haliburton. "This event is for anybody. It's for anybody interested in seeing the County of Haliburton grow and thrive.

Kosy Korner owners sell after 13 lucky years

Ann and Alan Gordon have sold the iconic Kosy Korner restaurant on Highland Street.

As owners of the beloved landmark for 13 years, they assured the community it will continue to be a central hub in Haliburton Village.The new owner already owns and operates three restaurants in Bancroft, so he's taking over with plenty of experience, Ann and Alan said.

All servers and kitchen staff have been offered continued employment at the restaurant.

CHA launches Mystery Snail Project

This year will be the fourth year of the Mystery Snail Project. Licenses were issued just before the May long weekend and will expire in the fall before the trout spawning season begins. The CHA is planning on collecting their 1,000,000th snail from the lakes in Haliburton County this summer. There is an abundance of mystery snails covering the bed of local lakes, reducing the enjoyment of boaters, paddlers, and swimmers in the county.

Public health unit, nursing staff continue contract talks

Nurses and the local public health unit have taken to conciliation talks in an effort to agree on a new contract. As many as 50 public health nurses and registered practical nurses represented by the Ontario Nurses' Association union began talks June 14 to hammer out a new collective agreement with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Those bargaining unit RNs and RPNs have been without a collective agreement since Jan. 1. And there has been just one day of negotiation in that time, according to the union.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School celebrated their prom at Pinestone in June. /FILE

Volunteers work together to manage the Mystery Snails plaguing Haliburton's many lakes. /FILE

A volunteer in Wilberforce offers barbecued goodies to kick-off the summer season. /FILE

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Celebrating th' bard's birthday in Haliburton

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

This year's annual Robbie Burns celebration is slated for Jan. 25 at Branch 129 of the Haliburton Legion. The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums Band will be kicking off the festivities with live music, before launching into a full evening of drinks, Scottsh dancing, and food, including haggis. All are welcome to join. /FILE

For over 50 years, the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drum Band has been bringing the music and culture of the Scottish Highlands to Haliburton County and for as long as Andrew Mansfield, Pipe Major for the band, can remember, they have been celebrating Robbie Burns Day in Haliburton.

Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, is renowned for his poetry, contributions to the Romantic Movement, and his preservation of the Scots language. An eternal cultural icon, Burns' poetry includes works such as *To a Mouse, A Red, Red Rose*, and the classic *Address to a Haggis*.

Robbie Burns Day, or Burns Night, as it is known in Scotland, is celebrated on Jan. 25, the bard's birthday. The first supper in memorium of Burns was held five years after his death, a tradition that has continued into the modern day. Three key elements that are required for a Robbie Burns Day include: Scotch whisky, haggis, and the recitation of Burns' poetry. Burns' first published poetry collection, titled *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* (1786), was crucial in solidifying the cultural and historical relevance of the Scots language. With the recitation of Burns' poetry at Robbie Burns Day, the oral tradition is continued.

Mansfield first learned how to play the bagpipes from Earl Cooper, part of the original founding band duo of Cooper and Don Johnston. Initially drawn to the Bagpipe and Drum Band because of his mother's Scottish heritage, Mansfield says that joining the band has immersed him in the culture and traditions of Scotland, something that he wishes to pass on to his own children.

"I have played my whole life," said Mansfield. "The band is like a second family to me."

Over 100 members have been a part of the Haliburton Pipes and Drum Band over the past 55 years. The band is always open to more members joining.

There is no cost to band members, and all ages are welcome to join and wear the red, gold, green, and blue tartan.

Band members meet at the Haliburton Legion to practice once a week, and at the town docks in the summer.

When he was younger, Manfield's favourite part of Robbie Burns Day was performing for guests and family. Nowadays, he says his favourite parts are the food, the camaraderie, and the importance of keeping the tradition of Robbie Burns Day alive.

The Haliburton Scottish Country Dancers will also be performing a variety of dances at Robbie Burns Day, with plenty of opportunities for guests to join. Dances will include ceilidh and Scottish Country dances.

"We encourage everyone to get up and give them a try," said Victoria Bingham, one of the organizers for the dances. "Scottish Country Dancing is very social and can be performed as formally or as casually as you want. Each dance is made up of a bunch of puzzle pieces, called formations, that can be put together in infinite combinations."

> ***"We'll take a cup o'kindness yet, For auld lang syne."***
>
> – Robert Burns, 1788

Once a dancer has learned the basic formations, they are able to dance any Scottish Country dance. There are Scottish Country Dancing Groups located around the world.

"It is an activity for all ages; from young kids to elders and everybody can dance and enjoy themselves together," said Bingham.

The Robbie Burns Day celebrations in Haliburton will take place at the Haliburton Legion on Jan. 25, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Music will be starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are $30 and can be purchased at the Haliburton Legion, Canoe FM, or from Haliburton Bagpipe and Drum Band members.

"Everybody is welcome," said Mansfield. "It is family friendly. You don't need to be Scottish. Come on out and check us out."

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NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: January 28, 2025

TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Axamit
Location: 3483 Glamorgan Road
Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2 in front of Lot 24, Geographic Township of Dysart, defined as Part 1 on Registered Plan 19R-11048 prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated December 16, 2024.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 14th day of January 2025.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information

Wanted: actors for HSF's silver season

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Highlands Summer Festival's production of *4000 Miles* dazzled crowds in 2023. The Highlands Summer Festival is actively looking for interested cast members to audition for the coming season. /FILE

Sometimes a new year is an opportunity to get outside your comfort zone, or to reconnect with something that once brought you joy.

With the Highlands Summer Festival (HSF) recently announcing their lineup for their 25th season, organizers are actively looking for interested individuals to audition for this summer's shows.

"Anyone can audition," said board member Melissa Stephens, who is organizing this year's audition process. "Every season we have many new and exciting surprises."

There are three shows lined up for this summer: *Urinetown, the Musical, Salt-Water Moon,* and *Drinking Habits*. The shows offer a variety of roles, themes, and styles, which Stephens is looking forward to exploring with those auditioning. "We are excited about the audition process," she said, "to reconnect with former cast members and meet potential new cast members."

The initial audition is approximately ten minutes long, and will start with a photo being snapped to help directors remember when choosing cast members. Stephens encouraged everyone auditioning to have the audition package filled out in advance, which can be found on the Highland Summer Festival website.

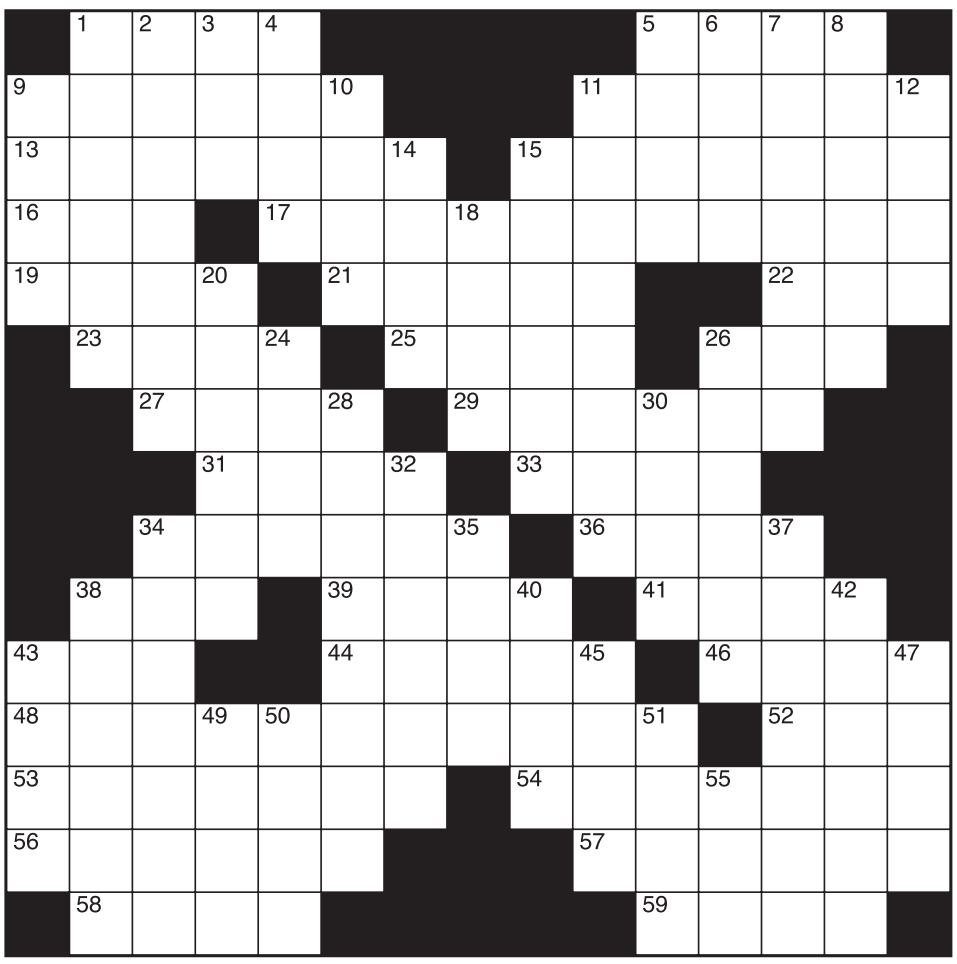
There will be three directors present at each audition. If someone is trying out for a musical role, they will be asked to sing a few verses of musical theatre repertoire. Stephens noted that if someone is intending to sing, they can bring sheet music, and she will accompany them on piano.

Following the song, auditioners will be asked to read a monologue, which should span approximately two to three minutes in length. "Additionally, directors may give you another monologue to take away and study for ten to fifteen minutes, and then you will return and read it for them," shared Stephens.

All roles the HSF is casting this season are available in the audition package on the website. The majority of rehearsals occur on weekends in order to accommodate those who work through the week. Stephens noted that the time commitment for rehearsals is approximately 100 to 120 hours in total.

"As well as cast members, we are always on the lookout for stage managers and behind the scenes volunteers," said Stephens. "Visit the HSF website to acquaint yourself with all of the volunteer opportunities and who to contact."

Information can be found at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.



CLUES ACROSS
1. "Loser" rocker
5. Partner to relaxation
9. Mixing
11. Winged nut
13. Expression of blame
15. Vast ocean
16. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. Multiply
19. Meat from a pig (French)
21. Related
22. Rocker Stewart
23. Surprise completely
25. Loon
26. Canister
27. Large, deep-bodied fish
29. Takes forcefully
31. Oil cartel
33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
34. More than one
36. Places down purposefully
38. Pitching statistic
39. Type of sword
41. Witnesses
43. Body part
44. Mixes slowly
46. Satisfy
48. Strong belief
52. One's physique (slang)
53. More frightening
54. Soup cracker
56. Teaches
57. One who carries something
58. Actor Sean
59. Changes

CLUES DOWN
1. __ Aires, city
2. Coarse grass
3. Type of gene
4. Door handle
5. Competition
6. Muslim ruler title
7. Hunting expeditions
8. Large mollusk
9. Bind securely
10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
11. 2-point plays in football
12. Breezed through
14. Type setting
15. Felt for
18. Codified rules
20. Small dome
24. Chevrotain
26. Male reproductive gland
28. Controversial beliefs
30. Z Z Z
32. One who confines another
34. Bishop
35. Garlands
37. Bird that flies by the coast
38. Optical device
40. Greek goddess of discord
42. Some are "Rolling"
43. Formerly (archaic)
45. Thrust a knife into
47. German river
49. Atomic #26
50. Make a grotesque face
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. Chinese philosophical principle

Answers on page 13

Haliburton County Library's Dorset Branch officially opened on Oct. 25, 2024. /photo submitted

Haliburton County Public Library: 2024 Year in Review

As we reflect on the last twelve months, it's clear that our community's passion for literacy, learning, and connection is thriving! Through our website and eight branches situated throughout Haliburton County, library staff continue to support patrons in their learning, creating, and reading adventures.

Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) cardholders read voraciously in 2024. Digital checkouts increased by 10 per cent to 66,640 (i.e. for e-books, digital magazines, e-audiobooks) and physical item checkouts increased by seven per cent, to 81,272 items borrowed. The Rotary Club of Haliburton generously provided HCPL with funding for our Kanopy film streaming service, which continues to increase in popularity with 3,374 video plays in 2024.

A huge highlight for 2024 was the opening of our new Dorset Branch! The official grand opening celebration took place on Friday, Oct. 25.

It's thanks to the collective efforts of Library staff, Algonquin Highlands staff, Haliburton County staff, Library Board members, and Township of Algonquin Highlands Council members that we were able to plan for and open a new branch inside the newly renovated Dorset Recreation Centre in under a year. This bright, modern 683 square foot library space has quickly become a hive of activity for Dorset residents.

On opening day alone, 13 people registered for their first-ever HCPL library card! One of these new library members was a dad who shared that he hadn't been inside a library in years, but had come to the Dorset branch opening with his young daughter. Together they made a Halloween craft, checked out a stack of children's books, and departed with a free take-home EarlyON literacy kit!

HCPL staff delivered a diverse range of programs in 2024, including a monthly Homeschool Hangout program at the Stanhope Branch, a Touch-a-Truck event at the Dysart branch, a May the Fourth Star Wars Program at the Minden Hills Branch, a Tomato Seedling Workshop at the Highland Grove Branch, and regularly scheduled class visits at our Wilberforce and Cardiff branches! In June, staff hosted a fabulous 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Wilberforce Branch, with cupcakes and a fun-filled planting activity.

In November, local volunteer Yasmin Schoenke facilitated a Celebrate Diwali! Festival of Lights program at the Minden Hills Branch. Yasmin guided participants through the history and significance of Diwali, led an Indian dance workshop, and shared her sarees, henna and other treasures with the group.

HCPL welcomed authors, storytellers, musicians, and puppeteers throughout the year. We offered free family-friendly programs on Professional Activity Days and during March Break, after-school activities for teens, film screenings, and programming for adults wishing to learn about gardening, growing food, and native plants. Whether it's playing the ukulele, doing genealogical research, joining a book club, crafting, or learning Spanish – there's something for everyone to enjoy learning at the Haliburton County Public Library!

The Wilberforce Branch of the library celebrated ten years in 2024. /submitted

The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library had a stellar year in raising funds to support the library via their volunteer-run book sales and popular community events. The Friends' 16th Annual Gala Fundraiser was tremendously successful, with over 150 people attending this year's event featuring R.H. Thomson (author/actor) at the Haliburton Legion. This year's Friends Café event was attended by 45 people and featured a lively conversation between Bernie Nicholls (former NHL player) and Janet Trull (author and Friends member).

Library staff are committed to supporting you wherever you are in your lifelong learning journey. We invite you to join us in 2025 at your local HCPL branch or online at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca

Submitted

CANOE 100.9 FM

Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any ***comments or concerns***, please reach out to us by:
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After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County. Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

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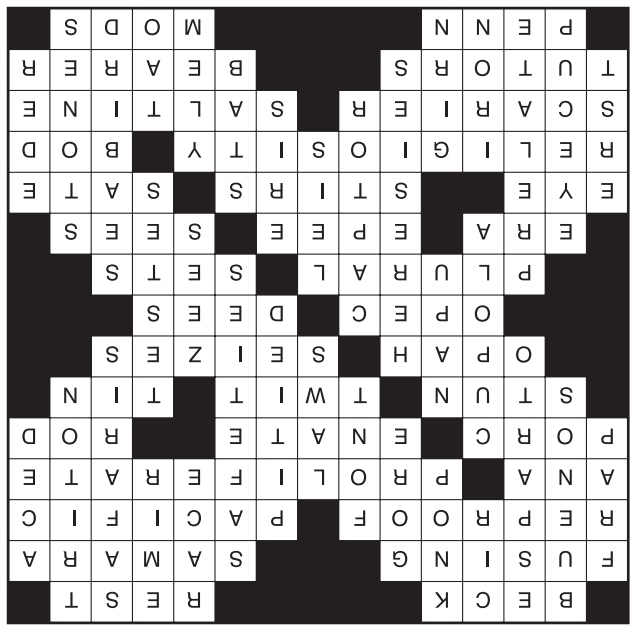

Buses cancelled according to school zones

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Students and parents have new zones to be on the watch for to learn about school transportation cancellations due to weather.

Parents and guardians of students educated at Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) facilities got word that transportation cancellations have been localized according to groups of schools.

The board's new zone approach to transportation cancellations came into effect Jan. 7.

"This means that on inclement weather days, the board will communicate which zone(s) is impacted by transportation cancellations," the board wrote in a letter to parents.

Haliburton County and area schools are corralled in Zone 3, which includes Archie Stouffer Elementary School; Cardiff Elementary School; Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Haliburton Highlands Secondary School; J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School; Stuart Baker Elementary School; and Wilberforce Public School.

If transportation is cancelled in one or more zones due to inclement weather, no buses will travel to any schools within the cancelled zone. A reminder that schools within the affected zones will remain open and learning opportunities will continue.

"Parents and guardians will be responsible for transportation of their students who are able to safely attend school on inclement weather days," the board said in a press release. "Drop-off and pick-up must occur in alignment with the regular school day start and end times."

Route specific information is available on mybustoschool.ca.

Zone 1 includes Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Bracebridge Public School; Gravenhurst High School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Glen Orchard Public School; Gravenhurst Public School; Honey Harbour Public School; K.P. Manson Public School; Macaulay Public School; Monck Public School; Muskoka Beechgrove Public School; Muskoka Falls Public School; and Watt Public School.

Zone 2 encompasses Huntsville High School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Huntsville Public School; Irwin Memorial Public School; Pine Glen Public School; Riverside Public School; Spruce Glen Public School; V.K. Greer Memorial Public School.

Zone 4 has Bobcaygeon Public School; Fenelon Falls Secondary School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Fenelon Township Public School; Lady Mackenzie Public School; Langton Public School; Ridgewood Public School; and Woodville Elementary School.

In Zone 5, there's Alexandra Public School; Central Senior School; Dr. George Hall Public School; Dunsford District Elementary School; Grandview Public School; I.E. Weldon Secondary School; Jack Callaghan Public School; King Albert Public School; Lindsay Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Leslie Frost Public School; Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute; Mariposa Elementary School; Parkview Public School; Queen Victoria Public School; Rolling Hills Public School; and Scott Young Public School.

Tips to stay linked in and safe online

This event will now be held at the Minden Community Centre at 55 Parkside Street in Minden on Wednesday, Jan. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Interested participants can register for the event over email by contacting atachhevents@gmail.com or by calling Connie Wood at 705-457-7215 . Attendees can also join over Zoom. Molly's Bistro Bakery will serve a delicious meal.

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Terra Lightfoot Launches her 2025 tour

Once again Terra Lightfoot is starting her year on the right foot with a concert in the Haliburton Highlands. Performing at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton on Feb. 1, Terra and her trio will rock the house. Her concerts in 2023 and 2024 sold out and no doubt it will happen again given her loyal fans and others seeking a great live music performance.

"We're excited to welcome back Terra and her trio to generate some warm vibes in the cold of winter" says Sue Shikaze, artistic director for the Haliburton County Folk Society. On her Instagram feed, Terra mentioned her annual hometown concert was one of her 2024 highlights.

"When this trio happen to grace a stage, something very special always follows – their chemistry, charisma, and talents shining brightly each and every time," said Martin Noakes of Great Dark Wonder

Lightfoot has a multi-octave mezzo-soprano singing voice that has been compared to that of Joan Jett and Dusty Springfield. Her electric guitar style is gutsy and mesmerizing. Her songs can be described as bluesy-rock power ballads. She has four studio albums to her credit, along with Polaris Prize and Juno award nominations. Her 2023 album *Healing Power* was a longlisted nominee for the 2024 Polaris Music Prize.

If you've attended one of Terra's shows in the past, you'll know you're in for a great night of music, and if you haven't - here is your chance! Come out and connect or reconnect with Terra who has a lot of love for her hometown - "I have gotten to know many more folks in the community so I am excited to see some friends! "

Melissa Payne will open for Terra Lightfoot. Originally rooted in old-time fiddle and traditional Celtic music, Melissa has now blossomed into a successful solo artist with three full-length albums under her belt. Melissa's live performances have garnered critical acclaim, and she has had the privilege of collaborating with some of Canada's biggest names in music, including Blue Rodeo's Greg Keelor, Matt Mays, Natalie MacMaster, and Jimmy Bowskill. With her unique blend of old-time influences, remarkable talent, and notable collaborations, Melissa Payne continues to leave her mark on the musical landscape, and her star is set to rise even higher.

Tickets are moving fast, so get yours now at www.haliburtonfolk.com. To find out more about Terra visit www.terralightfoot.com

This show is presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative. For more information about the Co-op see www.haliburtoncooperative.on.ca.

Submitted

Unveiling Haliburton's bounty through agri-tourism

In partnership with U-LINKS Centre for Community Research and a student researcher from Trent University, Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) Haliburton is exploring the potential development of an agri-tourism initiative in Haliburton County.

This exciting project aims to contribute to the future development of a coordinated agri-tourism initiative, connecting businesses, groups, events, and attractions related to agriculture and food in the region. The goal of this initiative will be to increase awareness about local food production, support promotion of events, and encourage visitors to Haliburton County.

Our student researcher will be gathering community perspectives about what a year-round, county-wide agri-tourism initiative might look like, and will also be developing a database of interested agri-tourism organizations, events, and experiences in Haliburton County. This information will be used to shape and support the future development of an agri-tourism promotional initiative.

ATIP Haliburton is a Not-for-Profit organization dedicated to promoting and expanding the heritage apple industry in Haliburton County. So far, their work has been focused on identifying, caring for, and raising awareness about the heritage apple trees throughout the County. In the future, they aim to plant more apple trees and promote the development of the local heritage apple industry. This project is part of their goal of expanding their focus to support the broader agri-tourism sector in Haliburton County.

This project is supported by ATIP Haliburton Coordinator Luba Cargill, and Professor Susan Wurtele, faculty supervisor from the Trent School of the Environment.

Our student researcher, Sadie Snell, is majoring in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at Trent University. She is passionate about this project because it focuses on agricultural marketing and local food systems, important themes in her studies. She is looking forward to hearing from community members about the networks and needs of agri-tourism organizations and businesses in Haliburton County, and learning about how regional tourism initiatives can support the agri-tourism sector.

If you are interested in participating in or learning more about the project, please reach out to Sadie at sadiesnell@trentu.ca! She will be conducting interviews with community members beginning in mid-January.

Submitted

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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than January 23, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

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640 IN MEMORIAM

Susan "Sue" Scheffee (nee Maxwell)

Resident of Haliburton

At her residence on Thursday evening, January 2, 2025, in her 69th year. Beloved wife and best friend of the late Gordon Scheffee. Loving mother of Andrew, Jessica, and Elisa. Loving sister of Malcolm, Lois, Bonnie, Cheryl, Diane, and Cathy. She is fondly remembered by her many grandchildren Jaylah, Camryn, Noah, Alexa, Luca, Jaxon, and Hudson. Predeceased by her parents Aubrey & Hazel Maxwell. Sue is also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Sue was a Registered Practical Nurse in the Community for many years. She enjoyed fishing, boating, snowmobiling, music, and most of all, her grandchildren.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, January 11, 2025, for a Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1 o'clock. (Visitation one prior). Reception to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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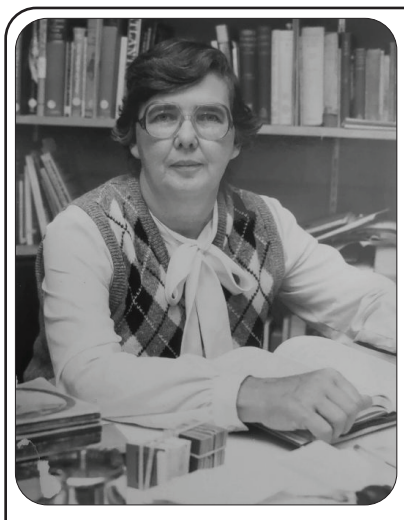

Marjorie "Eleanor" Irwin (nee Gray)

Dr. Marjorie Eleanor Irwin (née Gray), a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and respected scholar, died gratefully and was embraced by the arms of her loving Saviour on Thursday morning, January 9, 2025, at the age of 87. Born on April 29, 1937, in Toronto, Eleanor was the daughter of Joseph Everard Gray and Gladys Malcolm. She was predeceased by her brother Malcolm (1929), her sister Dr. Marion Powell (1997) (Rev. Donald Powell), and her brother Dr. Gordon Gray (2023) (Mary Locke).

Eleanor's life was defined by her deep love for family, her passion for Classical Studies, and her dedication to education. She was the cherished wife of Dr. John Wesley Irwin for 63 years, a partnership built on mutual respect, love, and shared intellectual curiosity. Together, they raised four children: Dr. John Joseph Irwin (Olesia, San Francisco), Marjorie Elizabeth Robertson (Dr. Bruce Robertson, Sackville, NB), Peter David Gordon Irwin (Sackville, NB), and Dr. Andrew James Gray Irwin (Dr. Zoe Finkel, Halifax), all of whom carry forward her legacy of curiosity, learning, and compassion.

Eleanor was the proud grandmother of Raphael and Gabriel Irwin (Köln, Germany), Dr. Phoebe Robertson (Russellville, Arkansas), and Joel Robertson (Lia, Toronto). Her grandchildren brought her great joy, and she cherished each moment spent with them.

A dedicated academic, Eleanor joined the faculty at the University of Toronto Scarborough in 1969, where she made significant contributions to the field of Classical Studies. Her research focused on colour terms and plant names in Classical Greek poetry, as well as the careers of Classicists, with a particular interest in the often-overlooked contributions of women in the field. Her work was widely recognized, earning her the prestigious Ralph Campbell Award twice (1984 and 2015), as well as a University of Toronto Arbor Award in 2013.

Beyond her scholarly pursuits, Eleanor was an avid gardener, finding solace and inspiration in her flowers and plants. She also enjoyed preaching occasionally and played the electric organ for services at St. Peter's Maple Lake, where her quiet yet steadfast faith shone through in every note she played.

Eleanor's warmth, intellect, and unwavering commitment to family and community will be deeply missed. She leaves behind a lasting legacy in both her academic contributions and the love she cultivated within her family.

VISITATION & FUNERAL SERVICE

A Funeral Service to celebrate her life and legacy will be held at the Family Residence on Friday at 12 noon, January 17, 2025. (Visitation one hour prior). A Memorial Service will take place at a later date in Toronto. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at ivcf.ca,1 International Boulevard, Toronto, ON M9W 6H3 would be greatly appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Community FUNERAL HOME
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

640 IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of

Caroline Ann French

Caroline passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on December 6th, 2024 surrounded by family. Our tremendous grief at her loss is tempered by the knowledge that she is no longer in pain. Cherished wife to Murray for a not-long-enough 43 years.

A very special thank you to Dr. Bryan Armstrong and all the doctors, nurses, and staff, particularly the team at the Palliative Care Unit, for caring for her, and about her. Everyone was helpful and compassionate.

Caroline and I spent many, many great years together with family and friends at our cottage on Big Bob Lake, Minden, or skiing in winter, and lots of trips to the Caribbean and Mexico. We enjoyed many road trips to the US, the Maritimes and Newfoundland, a cruise to Alaska, and a few winters in Florida. A Lot of fun together.

Caroline will be missed by her special friend Marcia who gave her love and support to her over the years. They were enjoying a girls' night out together when I met her.

Caroline French crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, reuniting with our beloved dogs, Milzi, Jake, Molly, Dusty, and Rylee (still here and missing her). One of my fondest memories was that she went to town and came back with a kitten she named Lisa. She provided a safe home to many furry friends over the decades.

For many years Caroline worked as an executive secretary. In 1994 we quit our jobs, sold our house, and moved to Haliburton permanently. She found us a wonderful home, across the road from a small lake, and we bought a local business. We ran the company for many years together as supportive partners and retired 15 years ago.

Predeceased by her parents, Frank and Helen, and her son Robert "Bobby" Weir. She will be dearly missed by our family and friends.

Caroline has been cremated and will be interred at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton in the spring. A celebration of Caroline's life will also be held in the spring, in our backyard where she loved to watch deer crossing our property regularly.

As I signed every card:
All My Love Always
Murray
xoxo

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Adopted

Haliburton Forest provides home for unusual pet

10

Victory

Red Hawks recapture title as St. Peter's Saints Classic A champions

26

The Haliburton County ECHO

Vol. 127 No. 155 $1.35 incl.GST
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Total 40 pages

Publications mail agreement # 40063862

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Clowning around

There was no shortage of fancy footwork during Circus Terrifico at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Jan. 15. More on page 22. **Chad Ingram** Staff

County scours budget for savings

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

It's clear that county councillors want to keep the 2012 Haliburton County budget as austere as possible.

Councillors were discussing department draft budgets during a series of committee meetings on Jan. 11.

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid wanted to know, if necessary, what kind of cuts could be made in the roads department budget.

The roads department has the largest budget of any county department.

"County council is in the process of rooting through the draft budgets of all the departments [and the whole picture] is not looking very positive, in my opinion," Reid said during the roads committee meeting. "It may be that we need to find more places to cut and I just want to get the committee's thoughts on the whole notion of road construction versus road maintenance. I understand our operating philosophy and I think it's a good one, but I'm wondering how sustainable that is, given the size of our county, the geographic breadth of the county and the fact the Liberal government did make a commitment to have a 10-year infrastructure plan."

That plan has yet to be announced.

"Personally, I think the priority should be on maintenance and not on construction," said Reid, who appreciated roads superintendent Doug Ray had already reduced his draft budget, but was adamant the county needed a contingency plan. "We may have to live with roads that are not as good as we want them."

The draft roads budget includes two major construc-

see WE page 16

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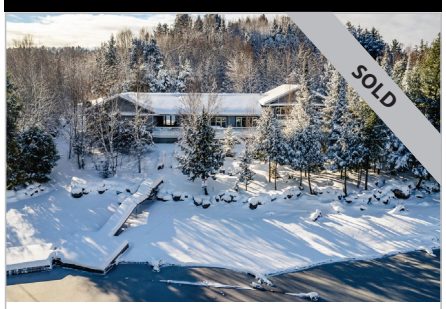

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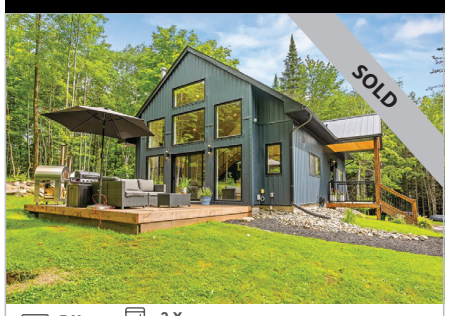

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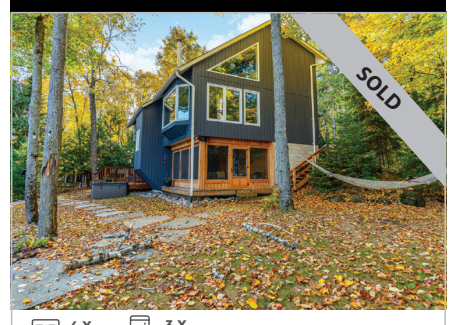

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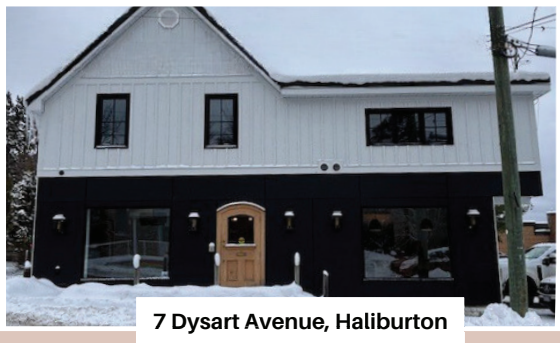

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